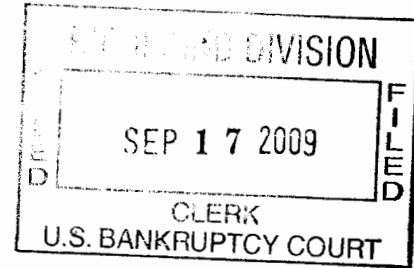


ORIGINAL

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Attorneys for Creditor UNICAL
ENTERPRISES, INC., a California
corporation



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION

In re:

Circuit City Stores, Inc., et al.,

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 09-35653 (KRH)

(Jointly Administered)

RESPONSE OF UNICAL
ENTERPRISES, INC., TO DEBTORS'
THIRTY-FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION
TO CLAIMS; DECLARATION OF
THOMAS J. WEISS (CLAIM NO. 6555)

Hearing Date: September 22, 2009
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Room 5000

Unical Enterprises, Inc. a California corporation and former vendor to the debtor Circuit City, is a party to an action pending in the Central District of California and in the Ninth Circuit, Case No CV06-6384 GPS. That action asserts claims for breach of contract, based upon certain sales and purchase agreements between Unical and the debtor. Copies of the First Amended Complaint and the related agreements were attached to the proof of claim. The claim consists of \$3,370,181 in principal amount, and accrued interest of \$683,269 for interest to December 10, 2008.

The action was tried to a hung jury, and the court granted a motion in limine and a Rule 50 motion after trial in favor of defendant debtor, which resulted in judgment in favor

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1 of defendant debtor. That judgment is now on appeal to the Ninth Circuit, but has been
2 stayed as a result of these proceedings.

3 The specific factual and legal basis of the claim are the facts offered in evidence and
4 considered by the court and jury. These are summarized in the proof of claim. The district
5 court granted the motions on grounds of choice of law and the parol evidence rule. Those
6 issues were briefed extensively in the district court. Unical contends that the district court
7 should not have ruled on the motions as a matter of law and intends to so argue in the Ninth
8 Circuit. Copies of Unical's briefs in opposition to the motions in limine and to the Rule 50
9 motion are submitted herewith, as Exhibits A, B and C.

10 Unical intends to seek relief from stay to pursue the appeal, in the absence of other
11 resolution of the claim.

12 WEISS & HUNT

13
14 By 

15 THOMAS J. WEISS

16 Attorneys for Creditor UNICAL
17 ENTERPRISES, INC., a California
18 corporation
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DECLARATION OF THOMAS J. WEISS

I, THOMAS J. WEISS, declare and state:

1. I am an attorney for claimant UNICAL ENTERPRISES, INC., with respect to Claim No. 6555. If called as a witness in this action I could and would testify to the following facts, which are within my personal, first-hand knowledge.

2. I was trial counsel for Unical in the proceedings in Action CV06-6384 GPS, in the Central District of California. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this response.

3. Claimant is submitting herewith its response to the Omnibus objection of debtor to certain claims. This objection is being sent by federal express to debtor's counsel September 16, 2009, one day after the date for responses to objections as set forth in the court's order. The reason for the late response is that my office made a calendaring error, based on the deadline for objection to the disclosure statement. Our office received the notice of hearing on the disclosure statement, set for September 22, 2009, with the notice of deadline for objections as 4 p.m. September 18, 2009. Although the body of the Omnibus objection order contains the September 15 deadline, the separate order on objections to the disclosure statement has the deadline of September 18, at 4 p.m., and we calendared that deadline date instead of the September 15 date. Unical does intend to pursue the appeal in the Ninth Circuit and intends to appear at the September 22 hearing on the Omnibus objection order. Unical respectfully requests to be heard on its response to the objection under Bankruptcy Rule 9014(a).

I declare under the penalties of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed September 16, 2009, at Los Angeles, California.



THOMAS J. WEISS

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Attorneys for Plaintiff UNICAL
ENTERPRISES, INC., a California
corporation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNICAL ENTERPRISES, INC., a
California corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., a
corporation; DOES 1 through 10,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CV06-6384 GPS (CTx)

Hon. George P. Schiavelli

OPPOSITION OF PLAINTIFF
UNICAL ENTERPRISES, INC., TO
DEFENDANT CIRCUIT CITY
STORES, INC.'S NOTICE OF
MOTION AND MOTION IN LIMINE
CONCERNING PAROL EVIDENCE
RULE

Pretrial Conference: May 12, 2008
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Courtroom: 7

Trial Date: June 3, 2008

The motion in limine re the parol evidence rule should be denied because:

1. The alleged integration clause does not purport to cover the entire commercial relationship between plaintiff and the purchaser Circuit City.
2. The possible application of the parol evidence rule turns on the admission into evidence of preliminary facts which are likely to be disputed, such as the offer of Ms Joan Pinoos to purchase the forecast models, and whether or to what extent Circuit City had discretion to decline to take the forecast models and quantities, and the course of dealing and wage of trade.

///

1 3. The principles of promissory estoppel may apply if plaintiff reasonably
2 relied on Circuit City's forecasts and vendor policies to purchase inventory which
3 became stranded when Circuit City arbitrarily refused to honor the purchase forecasts.

4 At page 7, lines 1-3, of its motion defendant appears to acknowledge a key
5 contention of plaintiff, namely that there were reasonable limits on Circuit City's
6 discretion to ignore its own forecasts and cease forecast purchases: "Specifically,
7 Unical agreed to provide a certain quantity of telephones to Circuit City, at a
8 guaranteed price, depending on Circuit City's needs for the product." Plaintiff
9 contends that the relationship was essentially a requirements contract for the
10 identified models, and that the forecasts are the rolling estimates of those
11 requirements. Because Circuit City required plaintiff to be ready to supply quantities
12 of product in accordance with the forecasts, and because Circuit City describes these
13 forecasts as its expected needs, Circuit City cannot claim the right to then treat them
14 as meaningless. It is one thing for Circuit City to say that it cannot guaranty that its
15 needs will match the forecast, but it is quite another thing to say that even if the
16 forecasts are accurate as to Circuit City's needs, at any time and for any reason
17 Circuit City can purchase those requirements from any source it wishes, regardless of
18 harm to plaintiff.

19 The motion in limine is based on the theory that Circuit City has absolutely no
20 obligation of good faith in making forecasts or disregarding them. That argument
21 flies in the face of commercial reasonableness and is counter to Circuit City's own
22 published material, fairly interpreted.

23 Even the text of the parol evidence statute relied on by defendant provides a
24 standard of commercial reasonableness as a supplement to the language of forms or
25 other documents. See California Com. C. Section 2202, which provides that
26 confirmatory memoranda "may be explained or supplemented

27 (a) by course of dealing, course of performance, or usage of trade and

28 (b) by evidence of consistent additional terms unless the court finds the writing

1 to have been intended also as a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of the
2 agreement.”

3 Plaintiff submits that this court should be guided by Hegglade-Marguleas-
4 Tenneco, Inc v. Sunshine Biscuit, Inc (1976) 59 Cal.App.3d 948, which interpreted
5 Section 2202 in circumstances analogous to ours. In that case, the seller sued to
6 enforce sale of a specific quantity of potatoes. The defendant buyer contended that
7 even though the contracts specified 100,000 cwt sacks of potatoes, in fact the
8 usages of the trade regard the specified quantities only as estimates of the buyer’s
9 actual requirements, and that the parties effectively had a requirements contract.
10 Seller objected that “the quantity terms in the contracts are definite and
11 unambiguous,” and therefore that the parol evidence rule barred evidence of any
12 usage or custom to consider the amounts as reasonable estimates rather than actual
13 quantities. The appellate court disagreed, holding that evidence of the party’s
14 reasonable expectations based on the usage and custom in the trade could be received
15 even though the exact quantities to be purchased were specified in the contract. The
16 court pointed out that “because the marketing contracts are signed eight or nine
17 months in advance of the harvest season, common sense dictates that the quantity
18 would be estimated by both the grower and the processor.” 59 Cal.App. 3d 957.

19 Further relevant to our circumstances, the court noted that its conclusions were
20 consistent with a Fourth Circuit case interpreting Virginia law concerning the same
21 language. Columbia Nitrogen Corporation v. Royster Company (4th Cir., 1971) 451
22 F.2d 3. In that case, the court held that unless the contract between the parties
23 specifically excludes trade usage to explain or supplement the written terms, such
24 customs or usages are admissible. 59 Cal.App.3d 955.

25 In our case, there will be abundant evidence that the course of dealing between
26 Circuit City and its vendors does not support the assertion that forecasts are
27 meaningless and that Circuit City has absolutely no obligation to its vendors until and
28 unless a specific purchase order is actually received by the vendor for a specific

1 quantity of goods. Indeed, Circuit City would go beyond even such a commercially
2 unreasonable interpretation, arguing that even if it does purchase the goods it could
3 arbitrarily return them for any reason or no reason.

4 Circuit City does not even mention, let alone distinguish, this clearly relevant
5 case. Hegglade was cited with approval for the same proposition in New West Fruit
6 Corporation v. Coastal Berry Corporation (1991) 1 Cal.App.4th 92, 99. The court
7 there observed, "As in any contract interpretation task. . .we must look to the
8 reasonable expectations of the parties. . . An 'agreement' under the Uniform
9 Commercial Code, 'means the bargain of the parties in fact as found in their language
10 or by implication from other circumstances including course of dealing or usage of
11 trade or course of performance. . .' (Sec. 1201, subd. (3); Sec. 2202; Sec. 2208; see
12 Hegglade-Marguleas-Tenneco, Inc. v. Sunshine Biscuit, Inc. (1976) 59 Cal.App. 3d
13 948, 955.)"

14 Our case is a simple variation of the circumstances of Hegglade, but presents
15 exactly the same principle. The buyer (Circuit City) insists the specified quantity is
16 effectively zero, because protective language used in Circuit City's forms arguably
17 disclaims any obligation to purchase any particular quantity, while the seller (Unical)
18 is contending that the only reasonable interpretation of the contractual relationship,
19 including course of dealing, supplemental promises, and custom of the trade, is that
20 Unical will supply Circuit City's requirements, measured by some good faith
21 standard, evidenced in part by written forecasts.

22 Moreover, Circuit City's integration clause language does not even purport to
23 cover the entire contractual arrangement between plaintiff and defendant. The
24 February 3, 2004 letter agreement recites that its purpose is "to establish the terms
25 upon which Unical Enterprises will sell and Circuit City Stores, Inc. will buy the
26 products set forth on the attached Exhibit 1 ('Products')." Exhibit 1 specifies three
27 models and corresponding quantities of each. The letter, at the last clause under
28 "miscellaneous," says "This Agreement, including any documents incorporated

1 herein, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the
2 subject matter hereof and supersedes any prior agreements between the parties with
3 respect to such subject matter.” The “subject matter hereof,” is models 35800,
4 35807, and 35808, in the respective quantities of 42,000, 30,000 and 25,000.
5 Nothing more. Nor does this contract exclude the supplemental provisions of Section
6 2202 of the Commercial Code, which is the same in both Virginia and California. Nor
7 is there any reference to the forecasts as to any models. Rather, page 1 of the
8 document says simply, “Circuit City shall purchase the Products at the price set forth
9 on Exhibit 1.” Yet Circuit City tries to argue that this really means Circuit City
10 doesn’t have to purchase anything.

11 For purposes of its motion, defendant must admit that the parol evidence
12 proffered by Unical will tend to show that Circuit City made an oral commitment on
13 the other three models, at or about the same time it made the commitment on the three
14 models mentioned in the agreement. There is nothing inherently contradictory to the
15 letter agreement for Circuit City to agree, as part consideration, to purchase its
16 requirements of certain other models from Unical. In fact, if Circuit City is
17 contending that any such agreement regarding the forecast quantities was not part of
18 the February 3 agreement, but was separate, then there is no rationale for using the
19 February 3 agreement to bar evidence of those other agreements. Circuit City appears
20 to recognize this problem in its description of plaintiff’s claims as “tethered” to the
21 February 3 letter. Of course, the limited integration clause says nothing about other
22 agreements which are “tethered” to the February 3 agreement.

23 Circuit City also tries to argue that the forecasts were “merely” “a planning
24 tool.” But of course Circuit City does not cite any portion of the February 3, 2004,
25 letter, nor any other documents by which Circuit City so belittles its own forecasts.
26 Circuit City argues that since Mr. Cottogio recognized that the forecasts are not an
27 unequivocal commitment to purchase the forecast quantities, somehow he has
28 admitted that the forecasts are meaningless and that the vendor, Unical, should

1 therefore just assume they are false. But the truth is that the evidence will show that
2 the parties treated the forecasts seriously. For instance, the evidence will show that
3 one of the documents the direct vendor import guide, in fact describes the order
4 forecast as one of the “Key Steps for Vendor,” and the description of the role of the
5 forecast in the supply process definitely does not tell the vendor that he should not
6 take the forecasts seriously. In fact, the contrary is true. The vendor must rely on
7 them to maintain capacity to fill orders.

8 Non-party witness Bruce Penslar testified at his deposition to the effect that he
9 was familiar with Circuit City’s forecasts, and that the rolling forecasts could be
10 revised upward or downward within a range of plus or minus 20 percent, but not that
11 they were meaningless or could be disregarded entirely. In fact, the Circuit City
12 personnel insisted that the vendors maintain capacity to deliver per the forecasts
13 otherwise they could be terminated as suppliers. See deposition of Penslar, 37:22-
14 40:2; 44:2-45:7.22:12-24:2; 27:20-29:18.

15 Circuit City had a policy of evaluating and ranking its suppliers as to how well
16 they maintained the delivery schedules based on the forecasts. Circuit City should
17 not now be heard to disclaim the materiality of the very same forecasts to which they
18 required their suppliers to commit.

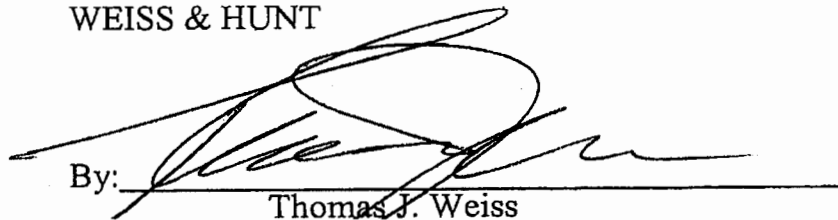
19 Finally, the motion fails to address the established California jurisprudence on
20 application of the parol evidence rule to proffered evidence. In sum, it holds that you
21 cannot apply the parol evidence rule in a vacuum, but only in the context of
22 provisional consideration of specific evidence, to determine whether the evidence
23 supports a meaning to which, in the entire context of circumstances, is a reasonable
24 one. Tahoe National Bank v. Phillips (1971) 4 Cal. 3d 11.

25 Circuit City also claims to rely on selected snippets from the “Supply Chain
26 Standards” and “Direct Import Guide” documents, without even attempting an
27 evaluation of them as a whole. Suffice it to say that the more documents and
28 standards which Circuit City attempts to somehow incorporate by reference into the

relationship with its vendors, the more complicated that relationship becomes and the more open to ambiguity and modification.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the motion should be denied.

WEISS & HUNT

By: 
Thomas J. Weiss

DECLARATION OF THOMAS J. WEISS

I, THOMAS J. WEISS, declare and state:

1. I am an attorney for plaintiffs in the above-entitled matter. If called as a witness in this action I could and would testify to the following facts, which are within my personal, first-hand knowledge.

2. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 are true and correct copies of the following pages from the deposition of Bruce Penslar, taken March 14, 2008:


Page 22, line 12 to page 24, line 2

Page 27, line 20 to page 29, line 18.

Page 33, line 2 to page 45, line 7

Page 37, line 22 to page 40, line 2;

I declare under the penalties of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on September 16, 2009, at Los Angeles, California.


THOMAS J. WEISS

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Attorneys for Plaintiff UNICAL
ENTERPRISES, INC., a California
corporation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNICAL ENTERPRISES, INC., a
California corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., a
corporation; DOES 1 through 10,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CV06-6384 GPS (CTx)

Hon. George P. Schiavelli

OPPOSITION OF PLAINTIFF
UNICAL ENTERPRISES, INC., TO
DEFENDANT CIRCUIT CITY
STORES, INC.'S NOTICE OF
MOTION AND MOTION IN LIMINE
REGARDING APPLICATION OF
FOREIGN LAW

Pretrial Conference: May 12, 3008
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Courtroom: 7

Trial Date: June 3, 2008

Defendant's Motion in Limine Regarding Application of Foreign Law should
be denied. It is not a motion in limine at all and does not request that the court
exclude any particular evidence. The motion in limine is a 12(b)(6) motion or a
motion for summary judgment motion in disguise. Motions in limine address
evidentiary questions and are inappropriate devices for resolving substantive issues.
See 75 Am.Jur.2d Trial § 99 (2004) (explaining that motions in limine are improper
vehicles to raise motions for summary judgment or motions to dismiss because
"[m]otions in limine are not to be used as a sweeping means of testing issues of law,"
///

1 Provident Life & Accident Ins. Co. v. Adie, 176 F.R.D. 246, 250 (D.Mich.1997)
2 (motion in limine cannot be used as substitute for motion for summary judgment)).

3 Defendant made no 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss the cause of action for
4 promissory estoppel, and the time do so has long since passed. Likewise, defendant
5 made no motion for summary judgment as to this issue, and again, any such motion is
6 untimely at this juncture.

7 Even if considered on its merits, the motion should be denied. Defendant's
8 recital of its version of the facts at this point is just argument. The allegations of the
9 complaint do not compel a conclusion that Virginia law applies to all aspects of the
10 relationship between the parties. As explained in the response to the motion in limine
11 regarding the parol evidence rule, the February 3, 2004 letter contains only a partial
12 integration clause, that is, it does not purport to express all of the terms of all of the
13 agreements between the two parties, but only "with respect to the subject matter
14 hereof," which is models 35800, 35807, and 35808, in the respective quantities of
15 42,000, 30,000, and 25,000. It does not even purport to apply a choice of law
16 provision to all related or "tethered" agreements. The evidence will show that there
17 were various deals between the parties over the years, and that there were various
18 purchase transactions which were logged into the Circuit City order inventory system
19 as separate "deal" numbers. (See Tammy Fullam deposition, pages 69-75, attached
20 to the declaration of Thomas J. Weiss as Exhibit 1.)

21 Finally, the motion does not cite any authority by which a California court has
22 decided that Section 90 of the Restatement, 2d of Contracts is not a fundamental
23 policy of the state of California. California cases consistently recognize the theory as
24 necessary to avoid injustice. See Drennan v. Star Paving Co. (1958) 51 Cal. 2d 409;
25 Kajima/Ray Wilson v. LA County MTA (2000) 23 Cal.4th 305, 315-316; Signal Hill
26 Aviation Co. v. Stroppe (1979) 96 Cal.App.3d 627. In Hall v. Superior Court (1983)
27 150 Cal.App.3d 411 the court did find that the benefit of California's corporate
28 Securities Law of 1968 is important enough to override a choice of Nevada law.

1 Such a determination appears to require a consideration of the factual circumstances.
2 The court in Discover Bank v. Superior Court (2005) 134 Cal.App.4th 886, 893-894
3 said, "We are not aware of any bright-line rules for determining what is and what is
4 not contrary to a fundamental policy of California. Comment g to Restatement,
5 section 187 itself says that 'no detailed statement can be made of the situations where
6 a 'fundamental policy. . . will be found to exist.'"

7 In A&M Produce v. FMC Corporation (1982) 135 Cal.App.3d 473, 487, n. 12,
8 the court did note that even in a contract between merchants under Article 2 of the
9 UCC, unconscionability is "a doctrine fundamental to the operation of contract law,
10 irrespective of any particular application." Unconscionability is conceptually close to
11 promissory estoppel.

12 For all the foregoing reasons, the motion in limine regarding the application of
13 Virginia law to promissory estoppel should be denied.

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15 WEISS & HUNT

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18 By: 

19 Thomas J. Weiss
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DECLARATION OF THOMAS J. WEISS

I, THOMAS J. WEISS, declare and state:

1. I am an attorney for plaintiff in the above-entitled matter. If called as a witness in this action I could and would testify to the following facts, which are within my personal, first-hand knowledge.

2. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 are pages 69 through 75 of the deposition of Tammy Fullam taken February 22, 2008.

I declare under the penalties of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on September 16, 2009, at Los Angeles, California.


THOMAS J. WEISS

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8 Attorneys for Plaintiff UNICAL
9 ENTERPRISES, INC., a California
10 corporation

11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 UNICAL ENTERPRISES, INC., a
14 California corporation,

15 Plaintiff,

16 vs.

17 CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., a
18 corporation; DOES 1 through 10,
19 inclusive,

20 Defendants.

Case No. CV06-6384 GPS (CTx)

Hon. George P. Schiavelli

PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR
JUDGMENT UNDER RULE 50

Trial Date: June 3, 2008

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT.

1. **SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT.**

The Rule 50(a) motion is without merit for several reasons:

1. The textual evidence is strong, if not determinative, that the defendant was obligated to buy the goods. Defendant says only that plaintiff relies on the language of the contract which says "will buy" and "shall buy," but defendant omits mention of the further clause which says three times that in case of any conflict between the terms incorporated by reference and the provisions of the letter agreement, "this Agreement will control."

2. In order to argue the contrary, defendant has to contend that the language "shall buy" and "will buy" is ambiguous, and has to be interpreted in light of extrinsic evidence. In fact, it was Circuit City which tried to make that argument, offering

1 evidence, for instance, that the Unical personnel thought it was important to have a
2 purchase order before shipping goods. That testimony actually was perfectly
3 consistent with plaintiff's interpretation of the Agreement since the purchase order is
4 the means of execution of the purchase not the document creating the purchase
5 obligation. But the jury must weigh that evidence, if it is to be considered at all. Mr.
6 Cotaggio also testified that Circuit city never disclaimed the obligation to purchase.
7 Such evidence cannot be weighed in a Rule 50(a) motion for judgment as a matter of
8 law.

9
10 3. Whatever the cancellation and return rights in the contract, the evidence
11 was that the defendant never did resort to the returns or cancellations provisions, and
12 the fact that those options existed actually support the reality of the "will buy" and
13 "shall buy" clauses of the contract.

14 4. Defendant's argument that the damages limitations clause effectively
15 makes the contract illusory is self-defeating. At trial, defendant did not so argue and
16 did not provide evidence that the plaintiff was not damaged. The remedies
17 provisions of Article 2 are to be liberally interpreted. In any event, there was ample
18 evidence of actual damages.

19 Defendant admits that the motion under Rule 50 is one made on questions of
20 law only, not on the weighing of evidence or evaluations of credibility. McSherry v.
21 City of Long Beach (9th Cir., 2005) 423 F.3d 1015, 1020 (standard for motion under
22 Rule 50 is same as motion for summary judgment, but Rule 50 is not intended as an
23 alternative mechanism for obtaining summary judgment). Here a scrutiny of the
24 explicit terms of the contract support plaintiff's contention that the agreement is for
25 the purchase of goods, not for the unilateral obligation of plaintiff to supply the goods
26 for sale and the unilateral right of defendant to do nothing or anything it wanted.

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1 **2. THERE IS NO EXPLICIT LANGUAGE ABSOLVING DEFENDANT**
2 **ALL OBLIGATIONS TO BUY PRODUCTS.**

3 Defendant's Rule 50 motion is based primarily upon the contention that the
4 contract documents on their face do not obligate the defendant to buy any goods, and
5 that a jury could not find otherwise. Defendant, however, does not specifically cite
6 any provisions of the February 3, 2004 Letter Agreement, Exhibit 15, which
7 defendant claims are dispositive of plaintiff's claim. Instead, defendant only argues
8 generally that the supplemental materials cross-referenced in the Letter Agreement
9 negate any obligation of defendant actually to purchase any goods. Defendant argues
10 that Unical agreed to the "terms of the eRFP," and the terms of the "Purchase Order"
11 and "Supply Chain Standards and Terms and Conditions," which defendant contends
12 somehow excuse defendant from any and all purchase obligations.

13 Although defendant also notes that the agreement allowed defendant to
14 terminate the Agreement at any time "upon 30 days' written notice to vendor,"
15 defendant admits that defendant never gave any such written notice. Defendant
16 further notes that the agreement gave the defendant the right to return any inventory
17 for reimbursement at the price paid. The Agreement provides a number of
18 circumstances under which the defendant can return goods, but none of them apply.
19 Moreover, defendant is not relying on any such provision because there is admittedly
20 no evidence that defendant ever returned any of these goods. It just failed and
21 refused to purchase them.

22 Defendant argues essentially that none of these provisions really has any
23 meaning because the true meaning of the agreement is simple: that defendant
24 undertakes no obligation at all by virtue of the contract. That makes no sense, and is
25 not in fact supported by the text.

26 Moreover, the text on page two of the Agreement does not in fact contain a
27 plenary right to return inventory. That provision is part of the termination for cause
28 paragraph on the fourth page of the Agreement, and does not refer to the clause on

1 page one which would allow defendant the right to terminate for no reason under the
2 30-day notice provision. But that doesn't matter anyway, because defendant admits
3 there never was a written notice of termination. Contrary to the explicit text of the
4 Agreement, defendant contends that it doesn't matter "when the Agreement
5 terminated, and whether it terminated through expiration of the twelve-month period
6 or by Ms Fullam's written notice provided on July 8, 2005." But that is merely a
7 rhetorical attempt to sweep the dirt under the rug. The July 8 e-mail does not even
8 purport to be a notice of termination, nor give any 30-notice of any kind. Nor is it
9 reasonable to construe the Agreement as allowing a written notice of termination after
10 the 12-month term to wipe out the previous obligation to purchase goods during that
11 term.

12 **3. THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF DAMAGES.**

13 The seller remedies provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, both in
14 California and in Virginia, give a wide range of remedies to the aggrieved seller, the
15 general aim being to put the aggrieved seller in the position it would be had the buyer
16 performed. Sections 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2708, 2709. Defendant argues that as
17 a matter of law there is insufficient evidence of damages. But this argument really
18 only amounts to an attempt to discredit the testimony of Ms Tsui, who testified
19 without objection that Unical incurred at least \$111,728 in damages, measured by the
20 lost revenue less the amounts saved by reason of the breach. In arguing that the
21 plaintiff had cancelled 8,484 units on order from the factory, and thus could not have
22 been damaged, defendant simply ignores the testimony of both Frank Liu and Becky
23 Tsui that the purchase order amendments did not change the total quantity but only
24 the allocation of the total quantity purchased in 2004 among purchase orders. In fact,
25 Ms Tsui explained that was why the amendments to the purchase order were made a
26 year later, in June 2005, after the full quantity of 64,516 had already been received.
27 Mr. Liu testified without objection that the factory did not allow Unical to cancel
28 quantities which it had already manufactured, for the obvious reason that the

1 manufacturer would have to take the loss of unsold inventory. Thus, Unical clearly
2 supports its position on this issue clearly with competent evidence, which the jury is
3 entitled to evaluate for itself.

4 Similarly, any argument over evidence of commercial reasonableness is for the
5 trier of fact. Defendant does not cite any authority requiring Unical to prove
6 commercial reasonableness (which is not even defined in the Uniform Commercial
7 Code) of any resale as a prerequisite to recovery of damages by an aggrieved seller.
8 Moreover, the evidence was that defendant was trying to sell the units at \$10, so
9 Circuit City can hardly complain that Unical later sold them for \$12. Further, under
10 Section 2706(6) the seller is not accountable for any profit on resale.

11 Ms Tsui testified that Unical had made efforts to sell the goods, but that the
12 price declines had made the remaining inventory less valuable. In fact, the evidence
13 was that at one point Circuit City had advertised the model for sale for \$10, which
14 very much upset Mr. Cottogio. The most recent sales of the remaining goods by
15 Unical were at \$12 per unit, and defendant did not even attempt to show that was
16 unreasonable. Circuit City's argument that the plaintiff's website displayed a retail
17 price of \$49.99 for the model is not an indication of the value of the goods, since, as
18 Ms Tsui explained, there were no sales at that price and the only reason for keeping
19 that published sale was to avoid competing with customers. Indeed, it was Ms Fullam
20 who asserted that she could not sell the goods profitably given the contract price.

21 Similarly, the arguments about whether and when the goods were identified to
22 the contract, and whether Circuit City had notice that Unical intended to sell the
23 goods (the statute does not require notice of the actual sale) or even if not what
24 difference it made, are all questions of fact. The Uniform Commercial Code allows
25 the identification to be by any means agreed on (Section 2501), including the
26 designation of quantities, source and amount via the letter of credit agreement, which
27 is Exhibit 16, and also provides that identification can be made after the breach
28 unilaterally by the aggrieved seller (Section 2704). When the parties specified the

1 model quantities, the

2 ///

3 price and the manufacturer and provided for a letter of credit to cover them, that was
4 identification.

5 In sum, the evidence is ample to support a conclusion that plaintiff was
6 damaged by the breach. In any event, defendant concedes that substantial evidence
7 supports at least \$50,332.80, so that there can be no judgment in favor of defendant
8 on the theory that Unical had no damages.

9 Lastly, as a kind of throw-away argument, defendant argues that the limitation
10 of liability clause might bar the damages claimed. However, defendant puts the shoe
11 on the wrong foot, arguing that "Unical offered no proof of explanation of whether
12 the amount it claims for damages includes consequential or incidental damages." If
13 defendant were relying on that clause, proof of its applicability would be defendant's
14 burden. In fact, defendant did not even argue the applicability of this clause to the
15 jury, for reasons which are not hard to discern. Again, what defendant is trying to
16 suggest, without actually saying so, is that the limitation of liability clause would
17 catch all damages, so that the result would be that Circuit city would never be liable
18 for anything regardless of whether or how it performed.

19 **4. CONCLUSION.**

20 The essence of the agreement is explicit on page 1:

21 1. Circuit City "will purchase" and "shall purchase" the "Products" defined
22 on "Exhibit 1 hereto" which include "25,000" units of "model 35808."

23 2. "Unical Enterprises will sell and Circuit City, Inc., will buy the products
24 set forth on the attached Exhibit 1 ('Products')."

25 3. "Circuit City shall purchase the Products at the price set forth on Exhibit
26 1."

27 4. In case of any conflict between the terms of the matters incorporated by
28 reference, including the Purchase Orders and the Vendor Supply Chain Standards and

1 the eRFP, "this Agreement will control." That phrase is repeated three times, under
2 "Program" with respect to the eRFP, under "Orders" with respect to the provisions of
3 the Purchase Order, and under the "Supply Chain Standards" with respect to the
4 provisions of the Supply Chain Standards.

5 Moreover, the defendant's interpretation beggars common sense and offends
6 the fundamental principle that the provisions of the contract be construed together
7 and that constructions which make many of the provisions meaningless be avoided.
8 That would be the result if Circuit City's interpretation were to prevail. It would
9 mean that all of the descriptions and qualifications on the duties of defendant are
10 meaningless because the true meaning of the contract is that Circuit City simply has
11 no obligations thereunder.

12 Here, a fair scrutiny of the explicit terms of the contract supports plaintiff's
13 contention that the agreement is for the purchase as well as the sale of goods, and not
14 for the unilateral obligation of plaintiff to supply the goods for sale and the unilateral
15 right of defendant to purchase nothing. For this reason, the court should in fact
16 render judgment in favor of Unical Enterprises, Inc., under Rule 50(a) given the
17 explicit text. Nothing in Rule 50 prevents the court from finding adversely to the
18 moving party on the very issue limned by the motion where, as here, the jury does not
19 return a verdict on that issue because of the mistrial. Rule 50(b)(3) allows the court
20 to direct the entry of judgment as a matter of law on that point. Only if the court finds
21 the terms ambiguous could the trier of fact, after weighing evidence, (which cannot
22 be done under Rule 50), find for the defendant. That, if necessary, must be done in a
23 new trial.

WEISS & HUNT

24
25
26 By: 

Thomas J. Weiss

27 Attorneys for Plaintiff UNICAL
28 ENTERPRISES, INC., a California
corporation

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT
In re Circuit City Stores, Inc., et al.
No. 08-35653 (KRH)

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is: 1925 Century Park East, Suite 2140, Los Angeles, California 90067

The foregoing document described as **RESPONSE OF UNICAL ENTERPRISES, INC., TO DEBTORS' THIRTY-FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS** will be served or was served (a) on the judge in chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and (b) in the manner indicated below:

☐ **1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING ("NEF")** - Pursuant to controlling General Order(s) and Local Bankruptcy Rule(s) ("LBR"), the foregoing document will be served by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On September 16, 2009, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the following person(s) are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email address(es) indicated below:

☐ Service information is on the attached page

☒ **2. SERVED BY U.S. MAIL OR OVERNIGHT MAIL**(indicate method for each person or entity served):

On September 16, 2009, I served the following person(s) and/or entity(ies) at the last known address(es) in this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States Mail, first class, postage prepaid, and/or with an overnight mail service addressed as follows. **Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.**

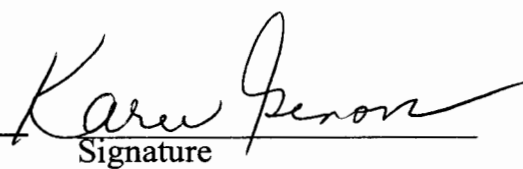
☒ Service information is on the attached page.

☐ **3. SERVED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL** (indicate method for each person or entity served): Pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on September 16, 2009, I served the following person(s) and/or entity(ies) by personal delivery, or (for those who consented in writing to such service method), by facsimile transmission and/or email as follows. **Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that personal delivery on the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.**

☐ Service information continued on attached page

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: September 16, 2009 Karen Genova
Type Name


Signature

In re Circuit City Stores, Inc., et al.
Chapter 11 - Case No. 08-35653 (KRH)

Attachment

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Document Page 25 of 25
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Hyrum K. Hunt

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September 16, 2009

Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court
United States Bankruptcy Court
701 East Broad Street, Room 4000
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Debtor: Circuit City Stores, Inc., et al.
Case No. 09-35653 (KRH)

Gentlemen and Ladies:

Enclosed is an original and two copies of Response of Unical Enterprises, Inc., to Debtors' Thirty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims; Declaration of Thomas J. Weiss (Claim No. 6555).

Please file the original and one copy for us and return a conformed copy in the envelope provided. If you do not require an additional copy to file, please discard that copy. If possible, we would appreciate a copy returned via FedEx (envelope enclosed), but if you do not have access to FedEx, please return by mail.

Should you have any questions or comments, please call.

Thank you for your anticipated courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Karen Genova,
Assistant to THOMAS J. WEISS

/kmg
Enclosures